



# Arlington Genealogical Society News

P. O. Box 373, Arlington, TX 76004-0373

MAY 2016

**Tuesday, May 10, 2016**  
**6:30 - 9:00 p.m.**  
**Community Room of**  
**Arlington West Police Service Station**  
**2060 W. Green Oaks Blvd.**



**PROGRAM: Bernard Meisner** on "Civil War Pensions"

At the May meeting, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for the 2016-2017 year. Nominations will also be taken from the membership.

The following people have volunteered to furnish refreshments for the May Meeting: Virginia Orchard, Mary Ann Conrad, Jeanette Cocharo, Jeannie Schemensky, and Wayne James.

#### **AGS OFFICERS 2015-2016**

President: Pete Jacobs  
1st VP Programs: Steven Brown  
2nd VP Refreshments: Jeanne Rives  
Secretary: Sylvia Hoad  
Treasurer: Jeannie Schemensky  
Parliamentarian: Dorothy Rencurrel  
Publicity Chair: Ruth Goodman  
Purchasing Chair: Mary Ann Conrad  
Photographer: Wally Goodman  
Membership Chair: Cherry Williams  
Website: John D. Anderson & Sheri Tiner  
Web Address:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txags>  
<http://arlingtongenealogytx.org/beta/>

The Arlington Genealogical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit (EIN: 90-0890150), incorporated in the state of Texas.

Arlington Genealogical Society meets on the second Tuesday monthly from September through June.

#### **UPCOMING AGS PROGRAMS:**

**May 7: AGS Board Meeting** at N. E.

Library from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**June 14: Round Table Discussion** or "Brick Wall Brainstorming"

#### **A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR SOCIETY PRESIDENT**

An AGS Board recommendation to participate in the Arlington Public Library Capital Campaign was introduced as new business at the 8 March members' meeting. Then AGS membership voting on the Board's recommendation took place at the 12 April members' meeting. Following nearly an hour of debate, AGS members present and voting approved by a majority a \$5,000 donation to the Arlington Public Library Capital Campaign. The Arlington Public Library Capital Campaign under the banner "DREAM: CENTRAL, Building the Library of Tomorrow" has raised nearly 60% of the eight-million-dollar goal. The Arlington Public Library Foundation will recognize gifts of \$5,000 and above in a prominent way in the lobby of the soon to be built George Hawkes Central Library. If you are considering a personal donation, here is a link with more information,  
<http://arlingtonlibrary.org/2016/04/05/library-invites-community-to-help-build-the-dream>

During a recent trip to my spouse's high school reunion in northern Virginia we took in some of the attractions in Washington, DC. Those stops included Constitution Hall and the Daughters of the American Revolution [DAR] Library for some family history research. Our focus was a family line which emigrated from Germany to the Iowa City, Iowa area during the 1830s when Iowa was still a territory and the settlement that became Iowa City had yet to be named. The DAR Library is open six days per week and is free for visitors. It was quite a thrill to be in such a majestic and historical building just a few blocks from the White House, doing family history research in one of the largest genealogy libraries in the country. The collection holdings for our area of interest was extensive so the five hours we spent gathering ancestor information from books on the DAR Library Iowa shelves was very productive. If you want to take a virtual tour, here is the link <http://www.dar.org>.

It is time to stop fine tuning the new AGS web pages, and make them available to the public via our new domain

<http://arlingtongenealogytx.org/beta/>

Please click on that link to see for yourself. Don't forget to add it to your favorites list, and invite friends and family to do the same. We don't have offices on main street so the web site is our storefront. Like all we do, what you see and get is the work of volunteers, so, a special thank you to the web site committee, especially society member, John Anderson. See you at the next members meeting.

Peter G. Jacobs, President of the AGS

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE AREA

**May 5: Grand Prairie GS:** Jake Mangum will be our speaker and will tell us about *The Portal to Texas History*, a digital repository for historical and cultural heritage materials. The meeting will be at The Ruthe Jackson Center, 3113 S. Carrier Parkway, Grand Prairie, TX.

**May 5: Mid Cities GS:** Speaker will be **Dawn Youngblood**, Tarrant County Archivist

**May 12: Cedar Hill GS:** **Lela Evans** will speak on African-American Genealogy Research

**May 12: Mesquite Historical and GS:** **Kelvin Meyers** will present "Can A Dead Man Sign a Deed?"

**May 14: FWGS Beginners Workshop Series:** Church, Cemetery and Vital Records. For more information, contact Terri Meeks at [terrimeeks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:terrimeeks@sbcglobal.net) From 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Chappell Meeting Room at the FW Central Library.

## GENEALOGY ROADSHOW

**May 17:** "Genealogy Roadshow" has released a preview video of its new season, which premieres May 17 on PBS. [Visit our Genealogy Insider blog](#) to watch the video and learn more about this season.

We'll also tell you how to submit your family history mystery for a chance to be a guest on the show in 2017.

**May 21:** Billy W. Sills Lecture Series: **Quentin McGown**, historian, thespian author, educator, judge on "Preserving the Past."

## MAY AGS MEETING



Steven Brown and Dr. Richard F. Selcer

## STREET CLOSURES IN MAY

Drivers should anticipate some street closures in Downtown Arlington next month as infrastructure is put into place for the [101 Center project](#).

The intersection at East Street and South Street will be closed from May 2 to May 9. Then, the section of East Street between

Abram Street and South Street will be closed from May 9 to May 23. Additionally, the intersection at Abram Street and East Street will be closed from May 23 to May 30, but only between the hours of 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.

101 Center, a mixed-use project being built on the site of the former George W. Hawkes Central Library, is a partnership between the city and a private development group headed by Catalyst Urban Development.

The redevelopment will include high-end residential units over a ground level of retail, restaurants and loft office space. The project, expected to open in 2017, will also include a structured parking garage with ground level public parking spaces.

See more at: [http://www.arlington-tx.gov/news/2016/04/28/street-closures-set-in-downtown-arlington-next-month-for-101-center-project-infrastructure/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+MyArlingtonTx+%28My+Arlington+TX%29#sthash.U0xpFmNE.dpuf](http://www.arlington-tx.gov/news/2016/04/28/street-closures-set-in-downtown-arlington-next-month-for-101-center-project-infrastructure/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+MyArlingtonTx+%28My+Arlington+TX%29#sthash.U0xpFmNE.dpuf)

## USING GOOGLE IN GENEALOGY SEARCHES

Since the Google search engine went live in September 1999, it has changed the way people search the web. Today, many genealogists use Google for their genealogy internet and surname queries, and for good reason. Not only does Google produce accurate and relevant search results, Google is extraordinarily fast and flexible. However, Google has evolved over the years and the tips and tricks have changed and evolved also. Below are some tips for genealogy searches to get the most from all that Google has to offer. (Many of these ideas apply to all search engines)

<http://www.searchforancestors.com/google/searchtips.html>

## NEW GENEALOGY RECORDS ONLINE

**U.S. WILLS.** Ancestry.com's enormous collection of U.S. wills and probate records

has been updated for the following states: Ohio, Alabama, New York, New Jersey, Arkansas and Georgia.

*Via April 22, 2016 by Sunny, Genealogy Gems*

## “I HAVE MY FAMILY TREE BACK TO ADAM AND EVE”

This is another bit of fiction that needs to be wiped out. I have often heard people (I won't call them "genealogists") at various times make the claim they have traced their family tree back to Adam and Eve. Of course, the "documentation" is always sketchy. To read this article, click on [April 21, 2016](#) by Dick Eastman.

## ALBERT EINSTEIN'S DESK



Is a cluttered desk a familiar sight to you? Maybe you and Albert Einstein have something in common. Or maybe you're more like tenacious photographer Ralph Morse, who captured the now-famous image of Einstein's desk the day he died. But as you can see from this iconic and rare photo of Albert Einstein's desk [published in this Time article online](#), you are in great company indeed. This image was snapped just hours after his passing 61 years ago today.

Although a picture speaks a thousand words, I think I'll give the last word to Einstein himself: "If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?"

*Via Genealogy Gems, April 21, 2016*

## COOKIE RECIPES

Steven Brown offered this recipe from the Southern tradition, in which he was born.

### Old-Fashioned Tea Cakes

1 C. (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature  
1½ C. granulated sugar  
2 large eggs, at room temperature  
1 tsp. vanilla  
4 C. all-purpose flour  
Pinch of grated nutmeg  
1 heaping teaspoon baking soda  
Pinch of salt  
Additional sugar for garnish

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream the butter and sugar together until fluffy. Add the eggs, one at a time and then add the vanilla. Whisk or sift together the flour, nutmeg, baking soda and salt and add to the butter/sugar mixture, ½ cup at a time. Turn dough out, onto a lightly floured surface and gently press into a ball.

Sprinkle top lightly with flour. Roll dough to a cutting thickness of about ¼ inch. Cut cookies out, with cookie cutters. Place on cookie sheets, at least 1½ inches apart, since they spread somewhat. Reroll scraps to cut more cookies.

Bake one tray of cookies at a time, on the middle rack of the oven, in a 350° oven for 10-12 minutes. The cookie will begin to look dry on the surface and slightly tinged with color on the edges. Remove baked cookies from the oven. Sprinkle immediately and generously with granulated sugar. Let cookies rest on the cookie sheets for 3 minutes before transferring to a rack to cool completely.

Tom Cogdell shared a Christmas memory of his mother making Hermit cookies. He found this recipe in the 1953 edition of *The Joy of Cooking* by Irma Rombauer.

### Hermits (about 30 two inch cookies)

½ C. unsalted butter  
1 C. packed brown sugar

Cream these two ingredients together until light and creamy. Then beat in:

1 egg  
½ C. sour cream, sour milk or strong coffee

Sift before adding: (If coffee is used, cinnamon and cloves are optional)

1⅓ C. all-purpose flour  
¾ tsp. cinnamon  
½ tsp. ground cloves  
¼ tsp. baking soda

Add the sifted ingredients to the butter mixture. Beat until smooth. Then stir in:

½ C. raisins  
¼ C. hickory or other nut meats  
(¼ C. coconut, optional)

Drop the batter from a teaspoon onto greased cookie sheets. Bake at 375° for about 15 minutes.



### THE ARLINGTON JOURNAL (cont.) by Will Keller

**Friday September 27, 1929**

#### *The Arlington Journal Passes Its Thirtieth Year*

Was Small Hand-set Sheet, Printed on  
Washington Press

In 1899, George A. Byrus, a printer, came to Arlington and began the publication of a small, four-page newspaper, thereby establishing The Arlington Journal, now celebrating its thirtieth anniversary with this issue. This first issue of the Journal was printed on an old-fashioned Washington hand press back in the days of the '80's when power presses were considered too expensive for the small "print shops." This old press of Mr. Byrus' was second hand bought from a defunct office in Mineral Wells, yet gave good service according to the good recollections of several pioneer

citizens with whom we have talked. The Journal office in those days, like many other businesses of the “wooden shack” town, was located, in a shed on the corner where Wessler & Co. is now located, and the rent for this place amounted to \$2.50 per month, which shows the values of business property in those “good old days.” This was thirty long years ago.

Mr. Byrus did not have the honor of being Arlington’s first editor. This honor, we believe, after careful investigation belongs to Willis Timmerman, who was, some 35 years ago mayor, editor and postmaster of this city, and it was he who established “The Democrat,” later purchased and printed by John B. McGraw.

Mr. Byrus had, previous to establishing the Journal, been employed as a printer by Mr. McGraw in the Democrat office. A year and a half after the Democrat ceased publication, Byrus returned to Arlington and, in 1899, began the Journal, which has been printed continuously each week for thirty years. Mr. McGraw had a career here that was tempestuous and short-lived, as he was a man of extreme frankness and delved into politics of the day in no little way, and, ironically, was a staunch Republican, although editor of the “Democrat.” An editorial which was especially vindictive of the good policy of William Jennings Bryan proved to be his undoing. The Democrats of Arlington, and this section after reading this editorial were very bitter against the paper and it was finally forced to suspend publication after about a year and a half existence. The old Democrat office was located in the second floor of a two-story wooden building on the corner where Webb Bros. drug store is now located. The discontinuation of the Democrat gave Mr. Byrus an opportunity to establish the Journal.

Editor Byrus sold the Journal to William and Layton Stanberry in 1903, who formed a firm known as Stanberry Bros., and published the paper until 1907, when it was sold to W. A. Bowen, and the Arlington Printing Company formed. Mr. Bowen, a capable editor, well loved and successful,

died in 1920. The competitive paper, The Gazette, edited by E. G. Senter, had sprung up and was later called “The Suburban Express,” with free circulation. Neither paper prospered, and finally in 1924, a consolidation was made and W. G. Carter became the editor. Mr. Carter ran the paper for about one year, until July 1, 1924, when it was taken in charge by J. S. and F. L. Perry. F. L. Perry sold his interests June 1, 1929, to his brother, S. L. Perry, of Mercedes, Texas, and the firm of Perry Bros. publishing the Journal now is composed of J. S. and S. L. Perry.

“Tis not difficult for the average man to vision Arlington in 1899 as it really was: just an average country town of the dull days of the past, with its Saturday crowd, with its unpainted wooden buildings, with the ring of the blacksmith’s hammer upon the anvil, with sandy streets leading off to the rural sections and lost in the briars and sand around a farm home, with its “hosses” that “saddle” and those that don’t,—the days when newspapers were things to be picked up and read only on Sunday afternoons when “company” failed to show up—‘tis easy to remember those days, and startle your mind when you see the flicker of a car as it hums down the pavement, in these days of modern improvements—easy to see that “times have changed” and something has happened. Yet there has been no less change than this in newspaper circles. Looking back over the past and tracing the line of progress, we find that the Journal has grown from a four-page, hand-set sheet, printed on a Washington hand press under adverse conditions, to an eight-page paper, with two modern linotype machines, four electrically equipped presses, and a large circulation that covers Arlington territory in a thorough manner.

The editorial policy of the paper has undergone a change no less marked, perhaps, than its mechanical department. Thirty years ago it was the custom of newspapers generally to pursue a policy of radicalism in politics, often times catering to the bickerings and differences of its readers,

thereby creating heated debates through its columns and attempting to cause more interest in its appearance. Today it is the policy of this paper to give both sides of every question in an unbiased, informative way, to discourage differences that might arise among our citizenship on public questions and to promote tolerance, understanding, and good fellowship among the people of the town.

For the past two years the anniversary edition has consisted of approximately forty pages and has drawn much editorial comment from the weekly and daily newspapers of the State. This is our thirtieth anniversary edition and its volume speaks for itself. We trust we have not failed in making it an issue in keeping with our city and one that will go out to thousands of readers reflecting credit on Arlington and this great, prosperous, progressive, growing section.

#### Man-Made Marvel Sets Journal Type (picture of Linotype machine)

It is a far cry from the days of '89 when one man set up the type for the Arlington Journal to the year 1929 when it now requires two Linotype machines, each doing the work of six men, to meet the demands of the large volume of work. Newspaper men and printers know Arlington as having a printing office that is second to none for a town of 6,000 people.

Another wrong notion is that the Waggoner ranch is the largest fee-owned ranch in Texas. It is the largest but one. The King holdings in the lower Rio Grande section are nearly twice as big, according to my information, but (also as I am told) it lacks a lot of being as valuable at the present time.

Dan Waggoner's Hopkins county ranch was an important thing in its day, but in a very few years it was too small to fit the Waggoner scale. His son, W. T. (or Tom, as he enjoys to be called by the privileged few of his old-time friends of trail herd days who are still among the living), was growing up and ambitious to grow in the cow business. Dan Waggoner moved westward to cheaper

land in the Wise county, near Decatur and began to acquire lands a little way west from Fort Worth. It was here, during the '60s and '70s, that W. T. Waggoner met and made friends with opportunity.

Compared with the present Waggoner ranch the Wise county ranch was a small outfit, although in its day it was a large holding, because it was not the custom then for ranchmen to own their pastures in fee—most of them simply leased the land for grazing. Dan Waggoner followed a different system—he bought the land and paid for it. In Wise county they had 20,000 acres, accumulated during the '50s and '60s. One time at Decatur someone asked Dan Waggoner if it was his plan to buy up all the land in Wise county. In his reply to that question we have the key to the policy that has built the Waggoner fortune—it was: "No, I don't aim to buy it all, just what joins me."

In time Wise county came to have its limitations. W. T. Waggoner was a man grown, and his ambition had kept pace with his growth. He needed more room. Again westward he saw opportunity; and again the Waggoner domain moved in that direction. Still holding to the Wise county interests Dan and W. T. Waggoner first bought land in '1873. Increasing their holdings through the '70s they were the largest individual landowners in Wichita county when the Fort Worth & Denver railroad was built in 1883.

**NOTE:** This article will be continued in future newsletters.

